

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /053 W

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P 271210Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2864

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR GR TY

SUBJ: TRANSFER OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE
FROM GREECE TO TURKEY

1. AIR ATTACHE AND POL/MIL OFFICER RECEIVED VISIT
FEBRUARY 27 FROM MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVES
CLIFF TURNER, F-4 PROGRAM MANAGER RESIDENT IN ATHENS,
AND JOHN THOMPSON, ASSIGNED FOR PAST TWO YEARS TO
ANDRAVIDHA AB, WHERE GREEK F-4 SQUADRONS ARE STATIONED.
THEY HAD RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS'
INTENTION TO ASSIGN JOHN THOMPSON TO ANKARA AS
PROGRAM MANAGER FOR TURKISH F-4 PROGRAM AND FELT THAT
THERE MIGHT BE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS ON MCDONNELL DOUGLAS
RELATIONS WITH HAF SHOULD THIS INTENTION BECOME KNOWN
AND TRANSFER BE EFFECTED. FOR THIS REASON, THEY WISHED
TO DISCUSS MATTER TO SEE WHAT THEY OR WE MIGHT DO.

2. MCDONNELL DOUGLAS REPS BELIEVED THAT WHEN NEWS OF
IMPENDING TRANSFER REACHED HAF, EFFECTIVENESS OF THOMPSON
WOULD END FOR REMAINDER OF HIS SERVICE IN GREECE.
MOREOVER, THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE THAT THIS WOULD ALSO
HAVE SPILLOVER EFFECT ON ABILITY OF OTHER MCDONNELL
DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION EFFEC-
TIVELY. THEY AND EMBOFFS ALSO BELIEVE THAT THOMPSON
MIGHT WELL BE PLACED IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN ANKARA
BY HIS INABILITY IN GOOD CONSCIENCE TO DRAW UPON HIS
EXPERIENCE IN GREEK PROGRAM WHEN SPEAKING WITH TAF PER-
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SONNEL. AT SAME TIME, IT APPEARS THOMPSON CANNOT REFUSE

ASSIGNMENT, WHICH WOULD BE A PROMOTION, WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING HIS FUTURE WITH MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. EMBOFFS OFFERED TO ASK DEPARTMENT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MCDONNELL DOUGLAS IN ORDER TO BRING POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED TO THAT COMPANY'S ATTENTION, BUT LOCAL REPS BELIEVED THAT THIS MIGHT PROVE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THEM, AND SPECIFICALLY TO THOMPSON. RESOLUTION OF DILEMMA WHICH SEEMED TO MEET NEEDS OF ALL CONCERNED WAS FOR LOCAL REPS TO SUGGEST IN TELEPHONE CALL TO MCDONNELL DOUGLAS THAT COMPANY OFFICER BE IN TOUCH WITH EUR/SE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER POLITICAL CLIMATE MIGHT NOT MAKE THOMPSON'S PROJECTED TRANSFER UNWISE. EMBASSY PROVIDED TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR NELSON LEDSKY AND JOHN DAY.

3. COMMENT: FROM POINT OF VIEW OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, TRANSFER OF THOMPSON PROBABLY WOULD BE SOUND COURSE OF ACTION. HOWEVER, WE SHARE LOCAL REPS' APPREHENSION THAT THE THOMPSON TRANSFER COULD BE REGARDED VERY NEGATIVELY BY HAF. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, WE REGARD TRANSFER AS IMPRUDENT AT LEAST, IN THAT THOMPSON WHEN IN ANKARA INEVITABLY WOULD BE PLACED IN POSITION WHERE HE WOULD DRAW ON PROPRIETARY INFORMATION FROM HIS EXPERIENCE IN GREECE. WE URGE THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, IF THEY SHARE THIS PERCEPTION OF SITUATION, REFLECT IT WHEN AND IF THEIR GUIDANCE SOUGHT BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. IF COMPANY INSISTS ON TRANSFER, ALTERNATIVE TO DIRECT TRANSFER WOULD BE ONE VIA UNITED STATES R THIRD COUNTRY, WHICH WOULD MITIGATE IMPACT IN GREECE. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS01828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760074-0650
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976027/aaaaafkb.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE FROM GREECE TO TURKEY
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, GR, TU, US, MACDONNELL DOUGLAS, (THOMPSON, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006